



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

DATE ISSUED: October 12, 2010 REPORT NO: 10-136

ATTENTION: Natural Resources and Culture Committee

SUBJECT: Proposed Changes to Kate O. Sessions Memorial Park
12 Hour Alcohol Ban

REFERENCE:

REQUESTED ACTION:

Amend San Diego Municipal Code 56.54, "Alcoholic Beverage Consumption Prohibited in Certain Areas," to delete Kate O. Sessions Memorial Park from the 12 Hour Ban, San Diego Muni Code appendix 56.54B and add Kate O. Sessions Memorial Park to the 24 Hour Ban, San Diego Muni Code appendix 56.54A, as follows:

- 24-hr. ban for all weekends (Friday at 8:00 p.m. through Monday at 12:00 p.m.)
- 24-hr. ban for all City, State and Federal Holidays
- When alcohol is allowed it shall be a 16-hr. ban (12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.) not the current 12-hr. (8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.)
- 24-hr. ban year-round for the flat play area adjacent to the Children's Playground at the north entrance of the park off Soledad Road, as reflected in Attachment A (crosshatch).
- Keg Ban

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Amend San Diego Municipal Code 56.54, Alcoholic Beverage Consumption Prohibited in Certain Areas, as requested.

BACKGROUND:

Kate O. Sessions Memorial Park is a neighborhood park which was designed and built to serve the 3,500-5,000 community residents within a 1/2-mile radius, as per the General Plan. However, with its sweeping views of downtown and Mission Bay, the park site has always been a venue location attractive to individual users as well as groups. The park is a popular wedding and celebratory event location which brings individuals from outside the neighborhood.

In November, 2008 the San Diego voters passed a 24-hr. alcohol ban for the beaches, coastal parks and Mission Bay Park. Since that permanent alcohol ban the park has increasingly become a venue for large groups who come to the park to recreate with alcohol. Park and Recreation Department staff and residents who live near the park have seen a change in the frequency and use of this neighborhood park over the past two years.

The social use of alcohol continues, but so called “binge” drinking is more noticeable. By the use of “social” networking there can often be an event posted that can have hundreds or thousands of people responding to the “event.” Department staff and community members have seen vans and shuttle buses used to drop off individuals at the park. The heaviest use of the park is during the weekends year-round, and during the summer months. This change in the character of park usage since the beach alcohol ban has made the park less hospitable to a broad spectrum of users while greatly exacerbating parking and traffic problems in the streets surrounding the park. For these reasons a request was made in January 2010 that alcohol be banned from the park site.

In 2009, as a result of incidents at the Kate O. Sessions Memorial Park over the July 4, 2009 holiday weekend, Council District 2 staff along with staff from the Police and Park and Recreation Departments met with members of the Friends of Kate O. Sessions Memorial Park group and other interested community residents to discuss their concerns regarding alcohol consumption at the park. Many community members were present and the discussion included a wide range of viewpoints. Several commitments were agreed to by the attendees of this meeting which were: a consensus for a one year evaluation before considering a 24-hr. ban; targeted enforcement at the park by the Police Department; trim shrubbery; place a portable toilet in the area where public urination was occurring; paint a red curb along one side of the driveway into Kate O. Sessions Memorial Park to allow for better visibility; and place a cage over the park’s backflow to prevent illegal use of city water. Police Department enforcement has been ongoing. One portable toilet was added in September 2009 and an additional six in May 2010. Painting of additional red curbing at the park entrance was completed in October 2009 with additional red curbing around the flag pole added in June 2010. Trimming of shrubs was accomplished in October of 2009 with additional trimming in June 2010. The backflow cage was installed in June 2010. Despite these efforts, members of the community continued to express concerns.

In January 2010 the process to amend the Municipal Code for a 24-hr. ban began with the first public hearing at the Santa Clara/Pacific Beach Recreation Council, the park advisory group for Kate O. Sessions Memorial Park. Subsequently, the item was heard by the Community Parks I Area Committee on April 7, 2010 and the Park and Recreation Board on May 20, 2010.

After considerable discussion at the Park and Recreation Board's May meeting the Board voted in favor of a motion (motion passed 7-1) asking Department staff to "*look to seek a compromise with all parties who have an interest in this*" (matter). In response to this direction, on June 29, 2010, the Park and Recreation Director hosted a meeting with invited community members from the neighborhood surrounding the park seeking advice on a possible compromise that might lead to a consensus on guidelines for alcohol use at Kate O. Sessions Memorial Park which, while allowing for some use of alcohol, would establish rules designed to prevent the abuse of alcohol at the Park. The meeting was very successful and a number of recommendations have come forward. The recommended amendment to the Municipal Code noted in the issue and recommendation portion of this report was brought forward at this meeting. Additionally, other recommendations included:

Other Recommendations:

- 1) Strict permit enforcement
- 2) Conduct enforcement sweeps by the Police Department with the assistance of Park Rangers

Reduction in Crowding Options:

- 3) Reduce crowding by restricting or eliminating commercial access to the park
- 4) Corporate Events-limit permits, number and size, in May/June/July on Saturdays and/or surcharge
- 5) Wedding-limit permits, number and size, in May/June/July on Saturdays and/or surcharge
- 6) Amplified music limits, via regulation or code determination or permit
- 7) Move some park tables

Traffic Options:

- 8) Consider use of Soledad Club for overflow parking when club is not in use or valet parking during weddings
- 9) Possible re-stripe of park parking lot to accommodate more cars

Physical Change/Options:

- 10) Move/add picnic tables to different areas to disperse occupancy
- 11) Gate off steps at bottom of park and lock gates from May-September 30th or on weekends (to prevent loading/unloading on Loring Street)

SUMMARY:

Amend Chapter 5, Article 6, Division 00 of the San Diego Municipal Code by amending Sections 56.54 (d) and 56.54 (f).

FISCAL CONSIDERATIONS:

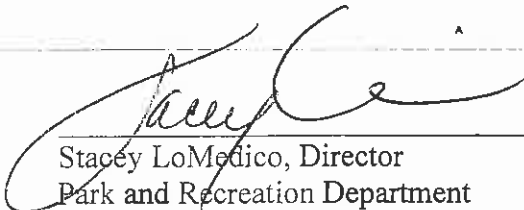
Funding in the amount of \$2,000 is required for new signage and is available in the Park and Recreation Department Fiscal Year 2011 budget.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH EFFORTS:

- January 19, 2010 Friends of Kate Sessions O. Sessions Memorial Park, a Committee of City Beautiful of San Diego Inc. submitted a request to the Santa Clara/Pacific Beach Recreation Council to replace the 12-hr. ban on alcohol use at Kate Sessions O. Sessions Memorial Park with a 24-hr. ban.
- January 19, 2010 the Santa Clara/Pacific Beach Recreation Council voted 4-0, with one abstention to recommend changing the 12-hr. alcohol ban at Kate O. Sessions Memorial Park to a 24-hr. alcohol ban.
- December 1, 2009 the Pacific Beach Planning Group voted 11-2 to recommend that Kate O. Sessions Memorial Park be added to the list of neighborhood and community parks in the City of San Diego that have a 24-hr. ban on alcohol use.
- February 21, 2010 the Parks and Beaches Committee of the La Jolla Town Council voted 7-0, with one abstention to recommend changing the 12-hr. alcohol ban at Kate O. Sessions Memorial Park to a 24-hr. alcohol ban.
- March 11, 2010 the La Jolla Town Council voted 13-0 in favor of a 24-hr. alcohol ban at Kate O. Session Memorial Park.
- March 24, 2010 the La Jolla Parks and Recreation Inc. voted 10-0, with two abstentions to support a 24-hr. alcohol ban at Kate O. Sessions Memorial Park.
- April 7, 2010, the Community Parks I Division Area Committee voted (10-0) recommending changing the 12-hr. alcohol ban at Kate O. Sessions Memorial Park to a 24-hr. alcohol ban.
- August 19, 2010, the Park and Recreation Board voted (8-1) recommending changing the 12-hr. alcohol ban at Kate O. Sessions Memorial Park to a 24-hr. alcohol ban.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND PROJECTED IMPACTS:

Users of Kate O. Sessions Memorial Park and Park and Recreation Department advisory groups.



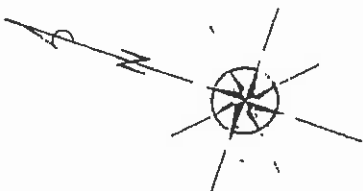
Stacey LoMedico, Director
Park and Recreation Department

Attachments: 1. Kate O. Sessions Memorial Park Map
2. Information on Police Calls for Service, Permit Activity, and
Maintenance Costs



24-hour Ban

DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	BALANCE
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BANK OF AMERICA (100% FIVE YEAR TENDERABLE)									
DATE	AMOUNT	DATE	AMOUNT	DATE	AMOUNT	DATE	AMOUNT	DATE	AMOUNT
1951	100.00	1952	100.00	1953	100.00	1954	100.00	1955	100.00
1956	100.00	1957	100.00	1958	100.00	1959	100.00	1960	100.00
1961	100.00	1962	100.00	1963	100.00	1964	100.00	1965	100.00
1966	100.00	1967	100.00	1968	100.00	1969	100.00	1970	100.00
1971	100.00	1972	100.00	1973	100.00	1974	100.00	1975	100.00
1976	100.00	1977	100.00	1978	100.00	1979	100.00	1980	100.00
1981	100.00	1982	100.00	1983	100.00	1984	100.00	1985	100.00
1986	100.00	1987	100.00	1988	100.00	1989	100.00	1990	100.00
1991	100.00	1992	100.00	1993	100.00	1994	100.00	1995	100.00
1996	100.00	1997	100.00	1998	100.00	1999	100.00	2000	100.00
2001	100.00	2002	100.00	2003	100.00	2004	100.00	2005	100.00
2006	100.00	2007	100.00	2008	100.00	2009	100.00	2010	100.00
2011	100.00	2012	100.00	2013	100.00	2014	100.00	2015	100.00
2016	100.00	2017	100.00	2018	100.00	2019	100.00	2020	100.00
2021	100.00	2022	100.00	2023	100.00	2024	100.00	2025	100.00
2026	100.00	2027	100.00	2028	100.00	2029	100.00	2030	100.00
2031	100.00	2032	100.00	2033	100.00	2034	100.00	2035	100.00
2036	100.00	2037	100.00	2038	100.00	2039	100.00	2040	100.00
2041	100.00	2042	100.00	2043	100.00	2044	100.00	2045	100.00
2046	100.00	2047	100.00	2048	100.00	2049	100.00	2050	100.00
2051	100.00	2052	100.00	2053	100.00	2054	100.00	2055	100.00
2056	100.00	2057	100.00	2058	100.00	2059	100.00	2060	100.00
2061	100.00	2062	100.00	2063	100.00	2064	100.00	2065	100.00
2066	100.00	2067	100.00	2068	100.00	2069	100.00	2070	100.00
2071	100.00	2072	100.00	2073	100.00	2074	100.00	2075	100.00
2076	100.00	2077	100.00	2078	100.00	2079	100.00	2080	100.00
2081	100.00	2082	100.00	2083	100.00	2084	100.00	2085	100.00
2086	100.00	2087	100.00	2088	100.00	2089	100.00	2090	100.00
2091	100.00	2092	100.00	2093	100.00	2094	100.00	2095	100.00
2096	100.00	2097	100.00	2098	100.00	2099	100.00	2100	100.00
2101	100.00	2102	100.00	2103	100.00	2104	100.00	2105	100.00
2106	100.00	2107	100.00	2108	100.00	2109	100.00	2110	100.00
2111	100.00	2112	100.00	2113	100.00	2114	100.00	2115	100.00
2116	100.00	2117	100.00	2118	100.00	2119	100.00	2120	1

CITY OF SAN DIEGO

THE GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN
KATE O'LESON'S
MEMORIAL PARK

5117-BOLEADO RD.
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LAURENCE
2117 - BOULEVARD RD.
CHICAGO ILL 60614

512
PSP

Kate O. Sessions Memorial Park
Information on Police Calls for Service, Permit Activity, and Maintenance Costs

Police Calls for Service

2007	2008	2009	2010 YTD
<i>96</i>	<i>143</i>	<i>281</i>	<i>237</i>

Total Park Permits

2007	2008	2009	2010 YTD
<i>98</i>	<i>138</i>	<i>157</i>	<i>170</i>

Park Permit by Type and Year

Permit Type	2007	2008	2009	2010 YTD
Special Equipment	<i>54</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>76</i>
Ground Use Without Amplification	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>43</i>
Ground Use with Amplification	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>15</i>
Weddings	<i>22</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>26</i>
Youth Athletics	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>8</i>
Adult Athletic	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>
Yearly Total	<i>98</i>	<i>138</i>	<i>157</i>	<i>170</i>

Extra Park Maintenance Costs

2007	2008	2009	2010 YTD
<i>Base year</i>	<i>\$1,351</i>	<i>\$46,016</i>	<i>\$51,072</i>

YTD – Thru Oct 8, 2010

October 11, 2010